



INDUSTRY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF
THE TREASURY

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

Washington, D.C. 20224

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FOREIGN SUBSTANCES IN BOTTLED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Proprietors of distilled spirits plants,
bonded wine cellars, breweries,
taxpaid wine bottling houses,
and others concerned:

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the reported finding of foreign substances in bottled alcoholic beverages. Among the materials found have been asbestos and cellulose fibers and glass. Because we know of your interest in having your products meet consumer protection standards, we are issuing this circular to make you aware of this problem, and to suggest that you evaluate your operations and take every precaution to see that your products, when shipped for sale, are free of foreign substances, some of which may be hazardous.

In the future, we shall make it a practice to keep you informed of pending investigatory studies concerning the effects of human ingestion of various materials. As you know, studies of this type frequently result in a declaration of probable hazard to health, with a resultant banning of use. We, of course, must enforce such bans at any of the plants regulated by this Bureau. Any questions you may have on this subject should be forwarded to the Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Attention: Regulatory Enforcement.

Rex D. Davis
Director